

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ Camera An apparatus comprising an electronic camera ~~producing to produce~~ an image signal, a ~~first~~ user operable picture taking control for ~~to~~ selectively activating ~~activate~~ the electronic camera to take pictures, and a ~~second~~ ~~an additional physically or mechanically operable user operable~~ control for receiving to receive an input from a user and for generating to generate, in response to the input from the user, a saliency signal to indicate user interest in a picture, the saliency signal to have that at least one of (a) can change in a value between selected from at least three different discrete values while the image signal is being produced; or (b) can have a value selected from a continuous range of values that are continuously variable while the image signal is being produced, a circuit for providing to record the value of a maximum value for the saliency signal based on the input received via the second control contemporaneously with activation of the first picture taking control, and a memory arranged for storing to store the image signal and the saliency signal, wherein at least one operation operating of at least a part of the camera apparatus while the electronic camera is activated to take pictures being arranged to be is controlled in response to based on the saliency signal, the at least one operation in response to the saliency signal being different from in addition to recording the value of the saliency signal in the memory.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part includes further comprising compression circuitry for receiving the image

signals and for compressing to compress the image signal signals to an extent determined by the saliency signal.

3. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part includes further comprising a buffer for receiving to receive the said image signal, the buffer having a capacity arranged to be controlled by the value of the saliency signal during operation of the camera apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part includes further comprising image selection circuitry for receiving to receive the saliency and image signals and for to selectively passing pass the image signal ones of said image signals as determined by based on the said saliency signal.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part comprises the memory, the memory including further comprising management circuitry arranged to be response to the saliency signal for selectively retain retaining in the said memory images associated with higher saliency levels in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising wherein said part comprises the memory including management circuitry arranged to be responsive to the saliency signal for selectively retain retaining in the said memory images associated with higher saliency levels in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

8-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first user control includes a normal picture taking control on the electronic camera.

12. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saliency signal is a first saliency signal and further comprising at least one further physically or mechanically operable a third user operable control for generating to generate a corresponding related second saliency signal.

13. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining to combine the first and second said saliency signals to form a complex saliency signal, the complex saliency signal being the saliency signal for controlling to control the at least one operation at least a part of the electronic camera and the saliency signal stored by the memory is arranged to store.

14. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saliency signal is a first saliency signal and further comprising saliency circuitry for generating to generate an image related saliency signal in response to the image signal.

15. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining to combine the first saliency signal and the image related said saliency signals signal to form a complex saliency signal, the complex saliency signal being the saliency signal for controlling to control the at least one operation at least a part of the electronic camera and the saliency signal stored by the memory is arranged to store.

16. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, further including circuitry ~~for incorporating said to incorporate the~~ saliency signal in ~~each of said the image signals~~ signal.

17. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second user control is part of the body of the electric camera or is physically attached to the body of the electronic camera.

18. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second user control is a remote control for communicating with the electronic camera.

19. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second user control comprises a physically movable control member and a sensor arranged to be responsive to movement of the control member.

20. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second user control comprises a pressure or force sensing transducer ~~for deriving to determine the value of the~~ saliency signal ~~that can have values that are continuously variable.~~

21. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus comprising an electronic camera ~~for produceing to produce~~ an image signal, a first user ~~physically or mearchnically~~ operable user control ~~for receiving to receive~~ an input from a user and ~~to generate for generating~~, in response to the input from the user, a saliency signal ~~to indicate user interest in a picture taken by the electronic camera, the saliency signal to have that at least one of~~ (a) ~~can change a~~ in value ~~between selected from~~ at least three different

discrete values while the image signal is being produced, or (b) can have a value selected from a continuous range of values values that are continuously variable while the image signal is being produced, a circuit for providing to record a maximum value for the saliency signal when the picture is taken contemporaneously with activation of the picture taking control, and a memory arranged for storing to store the image signal and the value of the saliency signal, wherein at least one operation of at least a part of the camera apparatus to process the image signal while the electronic camera is activated to take pictures being arranged to be controlled in response to based on the saliency signal, the at least one operation in response to the saliency signal being in addition to different from recording the value of the saliency signal in the memory.

22. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part includes further comprising compression circuitry for receiving to receive the said image signals signal and for compressing to compress the image signals signal to an extent determined by the saliency signal.

23. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part includes further comprising image selection circuitry for receiving to receive the saliency and image signals and for to selectively pass or delete passing ones of said the image signals signal as determined by said based on the saliency signal.

24. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part includes further comprising a buffer for receiving to receive said the

image signal, the buffer capacity being controlled by the value of the saliency signal during operation of the camera apparatus.

25. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said part comprises a memory, the memory including includes management circuitry arranged to be responsive to the saliency signal for to selectively retaining retain images associated with higher saliency levels in said memory in preference to images with lower saliency levels.

26-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user operable control is a first user operable control and further including comprising a second user operable control to enable the user to activate for picture taking control of the electronic camera to generate the image signal.

29. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 24 28, wherein the first and second user controls are combined control includes a normal picture taking control on the electronic camera.

30. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the saliency signal is a first saliency signal and further comprising at least one further physically or mechanically operable a second user operable control for generating to generate a corresponding related second saliency signal.

31. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining to combine the first and second said saliency

signals to form a complex saliency signal, the complex saliency signal being the saliency signal for controlling to control the at least one operation a part of the electronic camera and the saliency signal stored by the memory is arranged to store.

32. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the saliency signal is a first saliency signal and further comprising saliency circuitry for generating to generate an image related saliency signal in response to the image signal, the complex saliency signal being the saliency signal for controlling at least a part of the electronic camera and the saliency signal the memory is arranged to store.

33. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising saliency circuitry for combining to combine said saliency signals to form a complex saliency signal, the complex saliency signal being the saliency signal to control the at least one operation and the saliency signal stored by the memory.

34. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, further including circuitry for incorporating to incorporate said saliency signal in each of said the image signal signals.

35. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control is part of a body of the electronic camera or is physically attached to the electronic camera.

36. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control includes a remote control for communicating to communicate with the electronic camera.

37. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control comprises a physically movable control member and a sensor arranged to be responsive to movement of the control member.

38. (Currently Amended) An Camera apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the user control comprises a pressure or force sensing transducer ~~for deriving to determine the value of~~ the saliency signal ~~that can have values that are continuously variable.~~

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) An imaging system comprising an electronic camera ~~for producing to produce~~ an image signal, at least two physically or mechanically operable user controls, ~~each of~~ the user controls being arranged ~~for receiving to receive an a respective~~ input from a user and ~~for generating to generate~~ first and second saliency signals, ~~respectively~~, while the image signal is being produced, and saliency circuitry ~~for combining to combine~~ said first and second saliency signals to form a ~~complex composite~~ saliency signal, ~~at least one of the saliency signals being a signal that having at least one of (a) can change in a value between selected from at least three different discrete values while the image signal is being produced, or (b) can have values that are continuously variable while the image signal is being produced a value selected from a continuous range of values, a memory arranged for storing to store the image signal and the saliency signal in response to the saliency signal, operation of at least part of the electronic camera being arranged to be controlled in response to the complex saliency signal in place of a~~

stored image when the value of the saliency signal is greater than a value of a second saliency signal associated with the stored image and the memory is full.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Currently Amended) An imaging system according to claim 40, further comprising a separate third user operable picture taking control ~~for to~~ selectively activating activate the electronic camera to take pictures.

43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently Amended) An imaging system comprising an electronic camera ~~for producing to produce~~ an image signal representative of a viewed scene, a physically or mechanically operable user control ~~for receiving to receive~~ an input from a user and ~~for generating to generate~~ a first saliency signal while the image signal is being produced, saliency circuitry ~~for to~~ automatically ~~generating generate~~ an image related second saliency signal in response to the image signal, and circuitry ~~for combining to combine~~ said first and second saliency signals ~~while the image signal is being produced~~ to provide a complex composite saliency signal, wherein the first saliency signal, the second saliency signal, and the composite saliency signal are to indicate an amount of user interest in the viewed scene, and the composite saliency signal is to be used to control operation of at least a part of the imaging system.

45. (Canceled).

46. (Currently Amended) An imaging system according to claim 44, further comprising a ~~separate~~ user operable picture taking control ~~for enabling to enable~~ the electronic camera to take pictures.

47. (Currently Amended) An imaging system according to claim 44, wherein the first of said saliency ~~signal signals can have is to include~~ more than two values.

48-50. (Canceled).

51. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising an electronic camera, having a picture taking control ~~for to~~ selectively activating activate the camera to derive input picture signals, the electronic camera further including a user operable control for generating to generate a saliency signal capable of having when the picture taking control activates the camera, the saliency signal to include plural values, and a buffer for receiving the input picture signals and having a capacity for the input to store picture signals determined in response to the value of the saliency signal, wherein the capacity of the buffer is to adaptively change in response to a change in the value of the saliency signal.

52-53. (Canceled).

54. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising an electronic camera having a picture taking control ~~for to~~ selectively activating activate the electronic camera to store an image to a memory, the electronic camera further including a user operable control for generating to generate a non-playback saliency signal, and picture selection circuitry ~~for to~~ selectively passing pass the image to the memory in response to the

saliency signal, wherein the saliency signal being capable of having more than two values
memory is to retain or discard the image based on a value of the saliency signal.

55. (Canceled).

56. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 54, wherein the electronic camera includes the circuitry.

57-59. (Canceled).